

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A combination cleaning and plunging tool comprising:
2 a handle having a first end and a second end;
3 a resilient plunger coupled to the first end of the handle, the plunger having a concave
4 portion with an opening facing generally away from the second end of the handle,
5 the plunger further having at least an extended position and a retracted position;
6 a brush coupled to at least one of the first end of the handle and to the plunger; and
7 wherein at least a majority of the brush is within the concave portion of the plunger when
8 the plunger is in its extended position, and at least a portion of the brush is
9 exposed from the concave portion of the plunger when the plunger is in its
10 retracted position.
- 1 2. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1, wherein the brush
2 comprises a first brush portion coupled to an inside surface of the plunger in its
3 extended position.
- 1 3. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 2, wherein the brush
2 comprises a second brush portion coupled to the first end of the handle and
3 extending axially therefrom within the plunger in its extended position.
- 1 4. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 2, wherein the first brush
2 portion coupled to the inside surface of the plunger comprises a plurality of brush
3 bristles and a majority of the brush bristles are exposed from the concave portion
4 of the plunger when the plunger is in its retracted position.
- 1 5. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1, wherein the brush
2 comprises an elongated brush portion coupled to the first end of the handle and
3 extending axially therefrom within the plunger in its extended position.

- 1 6. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1, further comprising a
2 cross-member extending in at least one radial direction from the handle at or near
3 the second end of the handle.
- 1 7. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 6, wherein the cross-
2 member extending in a radial direction from the handle comprises a rotatable
3 knob thereon, the handle further comprising a sleeve rotatably mounted on the
4 handle such that when a user grasps the rotatable sleeve with one hand and the
5 cross-member knob with the other hand, the user can rotate the knob to cause the
6 handle to rotate within the sleeve.
- 1 8. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1, further comprising a
2 retractor coupled to the plunger and adjustably coupled to the handle, the retractor
3 moveable between a first position in which the retractor moves the plunger into its
4 extended position, and a second position in which the retractor moves the plunger
5 into its retracted position.
- 1 9. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 8, wherein the retractor is
2 slidably mounted on the handle such that movement of the retractor from its first
3 position to its second position moves the retractor transversely along the handle in
4 the direction of the second end of the handle.
- 1 10. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 9, the retractor further
2 comprising a grip portion having an inner surface formed of a friction material
3 such that when the grip portion is squeezed, the friction surface presses against
4 the handle to restrict transverse movement of the handle within the retractor grip.
- 1 11. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 10, the retractor further
2 comprising a sleeve rotatably mounted on the handle such that the handle can
3 rotate within the sleeve.

1 12. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1, the retractor further
2 comprising a substantially cone-shaped member extending between the retractor
3 and a circumferential surface of the plunger, wherein movement of the retractor
4 from its first position to its second position draws the circumferential surface of
5 the plunger toward the handle resulting in the plunger being placed in its retracted
6 position with the portion of the brush exposed.

1 13. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 1, wherein the brush is a
2 toilet brush and the plunger is a toilet plunger.

1 14. A combination cleaning and plunging tool comprising:
2 a handle having a first end and a second end;
3 a resilient toilet plunger coupled to the first end of the handle, the toilet plunger having a
4 concave portion with an opening facing generally away from the second end of
5 the handle, the toilet plunger further having at least an extended position and a
6 retracted position;
7 a toilet brush coupled to at least one of the first end of the handle and to the toilet
8 plunger; and
9 a retractor coupled to the toilet plunger and adjustably coupled to the handle, the retractor
10 moveable between a first position in which the retractor moves the toilet plunger
11 into its extended position, and a second position in which the retractor moves the
12 toilet plunger into its retracted position;
13 wherein at least a majority of the toilet brush is within the concave portion of the toilet
14 plunger when the toilet plunger is in its extended position, and at least a portion of
15 the toilet brush is exposed from the concave portion of the toilet plunger when the
16 toilet plunger is in its retracted position.

- 1 15. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 14, wherein the brush
2 comprises a first brush portion coupled to an inside surface of the toilet plunger in
3 its extended position.
- 1 16. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 15, wherein the brush
2 comprises a second brush portion coupled to the first end of the handle and
3 extending axially therefrom within the plunger in its extended position.
- 1 17. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 14, further comprising a
2 cross-member extending in at least one radial direction from the handle at or near
3 the second end of the handle.
- 1 18. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 17, wherein the cross-
2 member extending in a radial direction from the handle comprises a rotatable
3 knob thereon, the handle further comprising a sleeve rotatably mounted on the
4 handle such that when a user grasps the rotatable sleeve with one hand and the
5 cross-member knob with the other hand, the user can rotate the knob to cause the
6 handle to rotate within the sleeve.
- 1 19. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 14, wherein the retractor is
2 slidably mounted on the handle such that movement of the retractor from its first
3 position to its second position moves the retractor transversely along the handle in
4 the direction of the second end of the handle.
- 1 20. The combination cleaning and plunging tool of claim 14, the retractor further
2 comprising a sleeve rotatably mounted on the handle such that the handle can
3 rotate within the sleeve.

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